

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Objection was made to claim 11 being dependent upon claim 12 as being improper.

Applicant points out that this dependency is proper, and the claim 11 being dependent upon a subsequent claim was caused as a result of an amendment made to claim 11 in the August 28, 2002 amendment. As such, withdrawal of this objection is appropriate. With respect to claims 82 and 83, applicant appreciates the Examiner's observation on the claim misnumbering and redundancy, and has corrected these in the amendments made above.

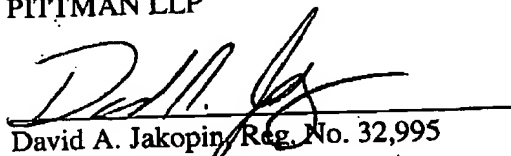
Certain claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Macrae, and other claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 using a combination of Macrae and Brown. No claims have been indicated as being allowable. In an effort to expedite prosecution, applicant has amended certain claims (claims 1 and 41 in particular, and the implicit amendments in claims dependent thereon) as well as claims 5, 26, 40 and 56 in a manner that includes further patentable subject matter. Furthermore, new dependent claims 84-94 have been added, which claims also include patentable subject matter.

With respect to the all of the claims, and particularly claims 1, 3, 26, 30, 40, 41, 69 and 70, the basis for applicant's assertion that these claims are patentable is set forth in the attached Rule 132 Declaration of Richard E. Ward. Consideration of this Declaration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the above-referenced application is in a condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully requested.

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any missing or insufficient fee which may be required relative to this application, or credit any overpayment, to our Account 03-3975/Order No. 073618/0259567 (RHS-001)

Respectfully submitted,
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REPLY TO CUSTOMER NO. 27498

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